

parative Anatomy, in the Royal University of Turin; while here he worked up the mollusks collected by DE FILIPPE during the circumnavigation of the Royal Frigate, 'Magenta.' In 1873, Tapparone began the series of articles upon Oriental land mollusks collected by O. BECCARI and L. M. D'ALBERTIS in New Guinea and adjacent regions; and it is to this series of papers that his reputation is chiefly due.

After a residence of eight years in Turin, Prof. Tapparone went abroad for the purpose of studying the mollusks of foreign museums. He visited the British Museum, the Zoological Museum of Berlin, etc., and finally spent some time in study under SEMPER at Würzburg. Returning to Italy, he went to Genoa, where he devoted himself to the mollusk collection of the Civic Museum. Shortly after, a disease of the circulation and nerves manifested itself, and despite the tenderest care of wife and friends, it proved fatal.

His collection and library have been given to the Civic Museum of Genoa, by his wife.

All students of land shells will regret the death of so conscientious and able a malacologist; and particularly will his loss be felt by those who have profited by his "*Fauna Malacologica della Nuova Guinea*," and the other essays upon allied faunas.

A bibliography and full biographical sketch by ISSEL, with portrait will be found in the *Annali del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova*, 1892.

THE UNIO MUDDLE.

BY PROF. CHAS. LE ROY WHEELER.

Under the above heading appears an article in the February NAUTILUS from the pen of Mr. Berlin H. Wright. In a recent number, also, appeared an article from Mr. John H. Campbell suggesting that the Uniologists connected with the American Association of Conchologists meet at Chicago this summer and settle disputed points as to priority of description, nomenclature, and synonymy. Certainly it would be "just too nice for anything" if the aforesaid Uniologists could have a little pic-nic at Chicago, pass a few resolutions forever settling all disputed points, pat each other

on the back, shake hands, adjourn, go home, and sleep more soundly than ever before; but, unfortunately, the ghosts of Dr. Lea, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Say, and others might appear upon the scene, and Mr. Ego might appear in the flesh, armed with carpet-bag, microscope, and manuscript; in which case the big show would not last half long enough to enable the quarrelsome scientists to finish throwing mussel shells at one another.

Seriously, however, this "muddle" ought to be unuddled; but how is it to be done? Who is there upon whom all concerned will be willing to rest the responsibility of deciding contested points? Can three or five men be found upon whose judgment all will consent to rest? If so, who shall they be?

By the time the "Unio Muddle" shall have been fairly settled the indications are that there will be three or four other first class muddles ripe. Would it not be well for the American Association of Conchologists to do in regard to American mollusks as the American Ornithological Union has done in regard to the American Birds, and settle not only the "Unio Muddle," but all contested points in American Conchology?

Why is it that the reputation of a conchologist should rest upon the naming of new species rather than upon a knowledge of Conchology? and, honestly, may not the making of new species sometimes be attributed more to conceited self-assertion than to a desire to help the science? Suppose we have a committee of the American Association whose duty it shall be to decide upon the merits of so-called new species, and that a name be regarded as only provisional until it be accepted or rejected by such committee. So mote it be.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *NASSA* FROM THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

BY ROBT. E. C. STEARNS, U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Shell small, elongated, ovate, of seven to eight whorls, with an acutely elevated spire, ornamented with generally three spiral series of granules; occasionally four series are exhibited on the penultimate whorl, and six to seven on the basal. These granules also correspond to a longitudinal arrangement. In some examples the sutural series is a little more prominent and followed by a slight